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Message Text

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40
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 IGA-02

AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 127428
R 030950Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3804

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, EG
SUBJ: PL 480 NEGOTIATIONS OPEN JUNE 2

1. U.S. AND EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS MET FOR FIRST TIME JUNE 2 TO DISCUSS NEW PL 480 AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR EILTS LED U.S. DELEGATION COMPOSED OF AGRICULTURE, AID AND EMBASSY OFFICERS. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY AHMAD DEWIDAR, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARAB AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGENCY, INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FORM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE VARIOUS TOBACCO ORGANIZATIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR MADE BRIEF STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THAT NEGOTIATIONS REPRESENT FIRST TANGIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF GREATLY IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE U.S. HE SAID THE US FULLY UNDERSTAND EGYPT'S NEED FOR OTHER ARGICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND EGYPT HAS HIGH PRIORITY AS ELIGIBLE TITLE I RECIPIENT, BUT HE ADMONISHED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT TIGHT WORLD SUPPLY SITUATION IN FOOD HE COULD NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS AT THIS TIME.

3. AGRICULTURE WAS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVE. EGYPTIAN SIDE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT LOW AMOUNT OF THE TOBACCO BEING PROVIDED
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CLAIMING THAT DEMAND HAS RISEN 100 PERCENT IN THE LAST 7 YEARS,

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THAT 10 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TOBACCO, REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION POUNDS WILL MEET ONLY ONE QUARTER OF THEIR NEEDS IN THE NEXT YEAR. U.S. REPS. REMINDED EGYPTIAN DELEGATION THAT U.S. OFFER CAME IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM GOE AND WAS NOT BASED ON ANY U.S. STUDY OF THE CURRENT SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION IN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

4. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION REQUESTED TIME TO STUDY AGREEMENT AND PROMISED CONTACT EMBASSY TUESDAY, JUNE 4, TO ARRANGE FURTHER MEETING.
EILTS

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